

TOWN OF HERNDON

Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE “GOOD NEIGHBORS” CELEBRATED AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Herndon, VA (June 26, 2007) – A robust pool of award nominations resulted in the naming of three recipients of the Town of Herndon’s 2007 Good Neighbor Awards. Jackie Johnson, Joshua Donato and Cary Mason were all recognized at this evening’s Town Council public hearing for their friendliness, neighborliness and contributions to the community.

Johnson, a Herndon resident whose warm and welcoming demeanor creates a sense of community in her neighborhood, was nominated for the Good Neighbor Award by her neighbor, Laura Cohen. “Jackie is always offering help, introducing us to people, and giving us information as we need it,” said Cohen. “She organizes many neighborhood events such as cook outs, progressive dinners, and holiday celebrations.”

Cohen moved to Herndon a year ago and stressed that Johnson’s neighborliness helped create a sense of home for her and her husband: “Because of her initiative, my husband and I have quickly gotten to know all of our neighbors and have developed a feeling of belonging,” Cohen said.

Donato was nominated for the Good Neighbor Award by his wife, Sabina Hashmi, who said her husband “enjoys surprising our neighbors with homemade cookies, shoveling snow in the neighborhood, and moving furniture up and down stairs for those in need.” Hashmi recalled

a time in particular when her husband, with their small son in tow, “picked up one of our neighbors from the hospital after surgery, brought her home, then went to the drug store to get her prescription.”

Cary Mason was the third recipient of the award. According to neighbor Anne Regan, Mason’s neighborliness is as simple as giving friendly greetings and picking up trash with her husband around the neighborhood.

Regan recalls when one of their neighbors was going through a rough patch, both physically and financially. Unfortunately, this neighbor was unable to maintain his yard, so Mason decided to organize a clean-up group. “Neighbors came with weed wackers, mowers, edgers, and blowers and got the yard into great shape for the winter,” said Regan.

The Good Neighbor Award is produced as part of the Town of Herndon’s Cultivating Community Initiative, a program designed to encourage beautification and enrich the quality of life in the Town’s neighborhoods. Programs are developed through the input of citizen volunteers and also include the Yard of the Month Awards, the Herndon Garden Tour, Neighborhood Celebration Month and Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays, a holiday decoration contest.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people. In 2006, Herndon was named one of the “best affordable suburbs” in the nation by *Business Week* Magazine.

For more information, visit the Town’s website at www.herndon-va.gov.

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